

Chenoweth Family Association Newsletter

September 2025



Who we are and how we're keeping the Chenoweth heritage alive

The Chenoweth Family Association exists to help people explore and deepen their understanding of the Chenoweth family, both within the United States and abroad. Our mission is to collect, analyze, and publish accurate genealogical information, preserving our family's legacy for future generations. We are committed to sharing this knowledge freely with the public, ensuring that anyone interested in the Chenoweth lineage has access to the rich history and stories that connect us all.

Genealogy is more than just names and dates—it is the story of who we are and where we come from. As members of the Chenoweth Family Association, we have a unique opportunity to uncover and preserve the rich history of our ancestors, ensuring that their legacy is not forgotten. Each discovery, whether it's an old document, a family photograph, or a newly traced lineage, adds another piece to the puzzle of our shared heritage.

The importance of genealogy lies not only in the past but also in the connections it fosters in the present. By sharing our research, we strengthen the ties between family members across generations and around the world. Whether through historical records, DNA research, or personal stories, every contribution helps paint a more complete picture of the Chenoweth legacy.

We encourage all members to continue their research and share their findings, whether through our archives, online forums, or family gatherings. The more we explore and document our lineage, the richer our collective history becomes. Let's keep the spirit of discovery alive and ensure that future generations can celebrate and learn from the incredible journey of the Chenoweth family.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Keeping the
Chenoweth
Heritage Alive

Recap: CFA
Gathering in
Media, PA

Chough-ed with
breeding
success

...but I'm not a
genealogist

Save the Date!
Let's go to
Louisville!

New Website
Coming Soon!

Discover Your
Roots in Print



Photos by Lori Johnston Photography

Mixing, Mingling, and Memories in Media

Our 2024 Chenoweth Family Gathering in Media, Pennsylvania was a joyful and memorable reunion, filled with connection, discovery, and plenty of fun! About 50 “cousins” from across the country—representing multiple generations—came together to celebrate our shared heritage and create new memories.

The weekend was full of enriching activities. We kicked off with engaging guest speakers who brought history to life and shared stories that deepened our understanding of the Chenoweth legacy. A highlight for many was the historical bus tour, which provided a deeper look into the local area’s ties to our family story.

We also made time to capture the moment with group family photos—always a favorite! Our business meeting allowed us to reflect on the organization’s progress, discuss future plans, and reaffirm our commitment to preserving and sharing our family history.

Perhaps most special of all were the informal moments: chatting over meals, swapping stories, and watching new friendships form among cousins young and old. Whether reconnecting with familiar faces or meeting new branches of the family tree, the Gathering was a beautiful reminder of the bonds that unite us.

We are so grateful to everyone who made the trip and contributed to the success of the event. Until next time, may the spirit of family continue to guide and inspire us all.



The Ruth Line



The William Line



The Arthur Line



The John Line



The Thomas Line

Chough-ed

WITH BREEDING SUCCESS

By Michael Chenoweth, CFA Board Secretary



In January, my wife, Pamela, who is also a new board member of the Chenoweth Family Association, and I traveled to Tortola, in the British Virgin Islands, to attend a conference of Caribbean representatives from British Overseas Territories (OTs), discussing the problems of invasive species.

This was of particular interest to us, since we live in the Miami, Florida, area. Miami is the source of most of the invasive species the OTs have problems with. Most problems seem to originate in shipments from Miami. The islands of the Caribbean get most of their food, landscape plants and building materials in containers shipped by vendors in Miami. Those containers often contain wildlife, in addition to the materials that they are supposed to be carrying.

Miami, and South Florida generally, have become a pest-hole of invasive species, from Pythons in the Everglades, to European climbing fern in the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, to Green Iguanas everywhere, and fire ants, just to name a few. Species of particular concern in the Caribbean include Green Iguanas, fire ants, Cuban tree-frogs and several invasive plants.

Green Iguanas are of great concern in the islands because, although they are generally thought of as herbivores, as they get large, they can also climb trees and eat baby birds out of the nests. Because they reproduce rapidly, Green Iguanas can rapidly become a serious problem for an island. In numbers, they can strip all the leaves from vegetation, causing mortality of the plants. Additionally, in the British Virgin Islands, there is a native iguana, called the Rock Iguana, which can be crowded out by the very aggressive Green Iguanas.

continued...

In the Cayman Islands, which were represented at the conference, there were four (4) known Green Iguanas on the islands in 2004. In 2014, that number had grown to over 254,000, and by 2018, the Green Iguana population had grown to something greater than 1.6 million. After several attempts at controlling the Green Iguana population over the preceding decades, the government of the Cayman Islands finally made a major commitment to reducing the population and spent over US \$12 million dollars to remove most of the Green Iguana population. Green Iguanas are very well camouflaged, so there are still many remaining.

The conference was organized by the British Virgin Islands government, the United Kingdom's "Non-Native Species Secretariat ("NNSS") and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, or "RSPB". Pam and I took the opportunity of the conference to become members of the RSPB.

After we returned to Florida, we received a 'membership package' from RSPB, which included our membership cards, a decal for our car and a copy of the RSPB magazine, which is where it begins to get relevant to the Chenoweth family.

As you may know, we have a Chenoweth family 'coat of arms' which has several versions, but all of them include three Cornish birds, called "choughs". This is pronounced like "chuff". These are black birds with red legs and bills, which historically have lived along the coastal cliffs of Cornwall.

The cliff and shoreline of Cornwall are spectacularly beautiful and dynamic. If you would like to see what I mean, look at an episode of the PBS series "Poldark". This is easy now that everything can be streamed. If you have PBS Passport, you should be able to go directly to Season 1, Episode 1. In which the hero, Ross Poldark, returns home in 1782, from fighting against the colonist rebels in America, expecting to be reunited with his sweetheart, Elizabeth Chynoweth. You might recognize her name.

Chough populations have been in decline in recent decades, apparently due to changes in land uses that have altered the areas where choughs feed and breed. However, according to the recent article in the RSPB magazine, an increase in cattle grazing "in coastal locations, which when grazed at the right level, opens up vegetation and gives Choughs easier access to beetles, crane fly larvae and caterpillars, and also offers a supply of grubs that are found in dung."

See the entire article at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/media-centre/chough-break-records-across-cornwall-and-ramsey-island>

...but I'm not a genealogist

by Sue Ellen Peglow, CFA Board Treasurer

There are many reasons for admitting I'm not a genealogist – which will become clearer as I go along – and only one reason why some might argue the point: I hunt dead relatives (and track the living ones).

I've been doing this for over 70 years, since I began before I could read or write. I was visiting cemeteries in Indiana and Illinois and memorizing family names and relationships with my grandmother long before I could print a family tree! I don't remember when I learned about each of the tools I'll try to write about, but one of the first, and still handiest, is Find a Grave.

There are many reasons this is so useful:

1. It's free.
2. It's easy to find on any device that can access Google or another search tool – just type "Find a Grave."
3. It's very comprehensive, at least for the USA.
4. It gives many options for finding people and cemeteries.

One warning – it can be very frustrating! While many of the entries have a myriad of useful facts that will lead you to infinity and beyond, you will find a sudden dead end – guaranteed! – when you least expect or want one. An entry will have name, birth and/or death dates and then, nothing...

But if, like me, you are not a genealogist and suddenly wake in the middle of the night wanting to know where Jennie N. Chenoweth is buried, this is your go-to way to find her. Try it, if you haven't:

1. Get your iPad.
2. Type Find a Grave in the search bar.
3. Tap on Find a Grave to open it.
4. Fill in as many of the 12 boxes as you can.
5. Tap "Search."

I only entered her name, and it came back with a day's worth of leads to follow: dates, parents, siblings, spouse, cemetery, and her only child, Arthur Marcus Blessing (my paternal grandfather). Each of the names was in blue – meaning you could tap the name and be linked to that new person's record in Find a Grave. If you have been to a record, the name will change color, to brown, a timesaver if you are forgetful or have followed a lead down several paths!

A really cool feature is that Find a Grave tracks maiden and married names of women where possible. I did not have to know Jennie married a Blessing to find her.

Scrolling below the family lists, if there are any, and the memorials, brings you to another list. This allows you to widen the search for your target name to cemetery, town/city, county, state, country, or the entire Find a Grave database. If both married and maiden names are in the record, tap on one or the other to get your target name. Jennie's record leads to the fact (among others) that there are 13 other Chenoweth burial records in Find a Grave for Benton County, Indiana, any of which you may find with a tap on the name.

Going back to the top, the name of the cemetery is underlined. A tap on that will take you to information about the cemetery: its location, number of records and sometimes a bit of history. You can enter a particular name to search, a family name, or browse the entire recorded population. A recent addition is a list of nearby cemeteries, helpful if you didn't catch the right one the first time, or just want to see who else might be in the neighborhood.

Remember, the record is only as complete as the human source could make it. You may well know that there were fewer or more siblings or children than you find listed. You may not find your target at all. The ubiquitous misspelled name may drive you crazy. You may not be able to get back to sleep...



2026 Chenoweth Family Association Biennial Gathering

We're thrilled to announce that the next biennial Chenoweth Family Gathering will be held in Louisville, Kentucky from June 18–21, 2026! As always, the long weekend will be filled with opportunities to explore historically significant sites tied to our Chenoweth roots, hear from engaging speakers, and—most importantly—enjoy plenty of time to connect and fellowship with cousins from near and far.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details—we can't wait to see you in Louisville!



2024 CFA Board of Directors

Back: Sue Ellen Peglow, Greg Wulker, Lawra Duy, Patt Airoidi

Front: Josh Chenoweth, John Wilkins, Michal Chenoweth

EXCITING NEWS

We're thrilled to share that the Chenoweth Family Association website is getting a major upgrade! Our goal is to create a more user-friendly site that's easier to navigate, easier to update, and better connected to our family's rich genealogy history. To make this possible, we're working with a professional web design company. While this investment will greatly enhance how we share family stories, records, and event information, it also means our ongoing costs will be higher than in years past.

The CFA does not collect dues, but if you'd like to support this important project, you can help by making a tax-deductible donation to our registered 501(c)(3). Your contribution will directly support the preservation and sharing of our family's history for generations to come.

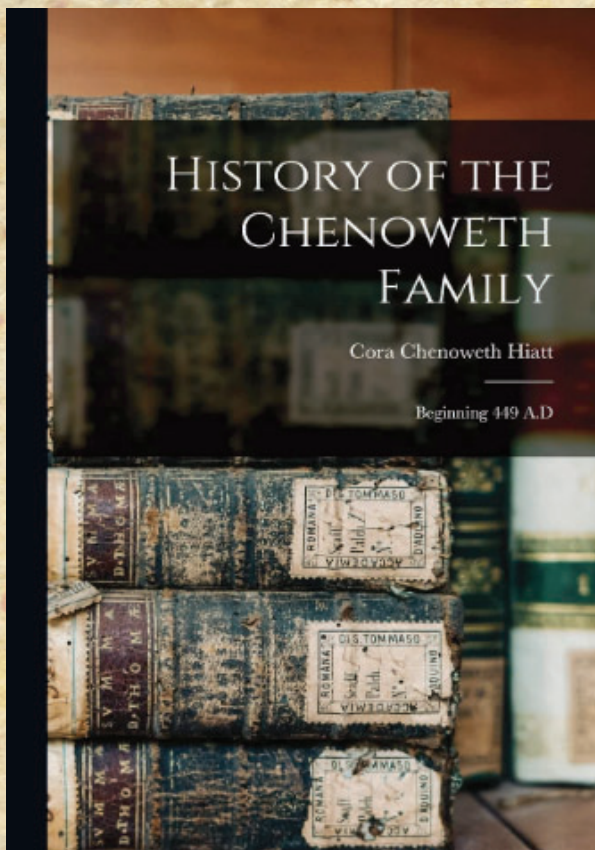
www.chenowethfamily.org



Stories of Our Family, Bound and Beautiful



Two cornerstone works of Chenoweth family history are available for a donation to the Chenoweth Family Association. **History of the Chenoweth Family** (1926) by Cora Hiatt (238 pages) and **The Chenoweth Family in America** by Richard Harris (721 pages) are invaluable resources for anyone tracing their lineage or preserving our shared story. Each book offers a rich look into generations of Chenoweths and the journeys that connect us all.



To add to your collection and support the Chenoweth Family Association, the Hiatt book may be obtained for a \$70 donation. The Harris book may be obtained for a donation of \$90. To request copies of either book, email us your request using the [CONTACT US](#) link on website, and we'll follow up with you.

Happy reading!